

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for marking a sheet metal workpiece on a punching press. A marking tool, mounted in a holder on the punching press is forced either against the surface of the workpiece, or to a depth into the surface of the workpiece. The workpiece is displaced in its plane, while engaged by the marking tool, in accordance with the desired contour. The marking tool is mounted either in the punch holder or in a holder of the workpiece table. A support roller or ball provides counter-support on the side of the workpiece opposite from the marking tool.